



**Evaluation Committee Recommendations Regarding
Outline for Phase 3 Evaluation Request for Proposals (RFP)
September 13, 2010**

Following are the recommendations from the MHSOAC Evaluation Committee regarding the priority use of potential augmented evaluation resources in Fiscal Year (FY) 10/11.

Background

New Potential Evaluation Resources

The MHSOAC is in the process of obtaining a “Phase 2” evaluation contractor for the MHSOAC’s Initial Statewide Evaluation of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The funding available for that contract is \$500K for FY 10/11 and \$500K for FY 11/12 from the MHSOAC budget. In July 2010, the Commission approved the outline for that RFP which specifies the General Approach, Scope of Work and Provider Qualifications.

During the legislative budget hearings, the Senate and Assembly redirected \$1 million in FY 10/11 MHSA Funds for evaluation purposes from the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to the MHSOAC for a competitively bid evaluation to reflect the needs and responsibilities of the MHSOAC. This additional funding needs to be in the final budget and approved by the Governor. Potential FY 10/11 expanded funding must be encumbered in a competitively bid contract by 6/30/11 or it will revert to the Mental Health Services fund.

The potential expanded funding is intended to build upon the Phase 2 evaluation and expand the MHSOAC evaluation efforts into other priorities. Coordination between these evaluations is essential.

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Evaluation—Next Steps

Internal MHSOAC resources will be used in FY 10/11 to begin work on PEI evaluation: 1) the PEI Trends Report will be expanded to include all approved counties and to add the number of people expected to be served through local plans, 2) an RFP will be developed for a future external PEI evaluation, and 3) the MHSOAC will attempt to obtain resources for an FY 11/12 contract for an external PEI evaluation.

Participatory Research

The Evaluation Committee includes a recommendation to use a specific evaluation approach for one of the deliverables, called Participatory Research. Under this methodology, the evaluator would work in partnership with those affected by the evaluation, i.e., individuals living with mental illness, their families and caregivers, ensuring participation of traditionally unserved and underserved communities across the life span, in all aspects of the research process. This may include developing new data sources.

Evaluation Committee Recommendations

The General Approach for the potential expanded FY 10/11 evaluation resources should be consistent with the MHSOAC approved Phase 2 evaluation. Consistent with MHSOAC direction at the July 2010 meeting, the evaluator will use a continuous quality improvement framework. Whenever possible, the evaluator will also determine if there is differential impact on various populations by race/ethnicity, gender and age.

Provider Qualifications should remain the same as approved by the MHSOAC with one additional minimum qualification—knowledge of and/or experience with participatory research.

Outline of Scope of Work and Deliverables

1. Design metrics, perform statistical analyses and develop reports that
 - a. Determine range and average annual per person expenditures for a full service partnership (FSP) by age group—children, transition aged youth, adults and older adults. The proportion of the expenditures by funding source shall be determined.
 - b. Determine the financial impact of outcomes achieved and compare to expenditures for FSPs for at least one age group. The outcomes must be consistent with those in the MHSA/System of Care statutes. Note: outcomes have been and continue to be developed through other evaluations.

Note: Evaluator must consult with and obtain input from i) individuals living with mental illness, their families and personal caregivers, ensuring participation of traditionally unserved and underserved communities across the life span and ii) local mental health data and research experts.

2. Using participatory research with individuals living with mental illness, their family members and personal caregivers, ensuring participation of traditionally unserved and underserved communities across the life span,
 - a. Determine the impact of one type of service/strategy funded with general system development funding category on at least one outcome prioritized from the MHSA/System of Care statutes. Note: The MHSOAC's Initial Statewide Evaluation of the MHSA (i.e., Phase 2) is expected to provide a summary of general system development activities and expenditures that can be used as base information for this analysis.
 - b. Determine the impact of involvement of individuals living with mental illness, their families and personal caregivers in the public mental health system on at least one outcome prioritized from the MHSA/System of Care statutes.

Note: Evaluator must consult with and obtain input from local mental health data and research experts.

3. Provide final report which includes recommendations that
 - a. Identify and recommend data elements that are needed for a comprehensive evaluation, but are not available in the data sets currently in use by DMH or the counties.
 - b. Recommend a process for integrating service process variables with client outcomes for an effectiveness evaluation.